

From:

Date:

Kim Jong-Il  
Chairman  
National Defense Commission  
Pyongyang  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dear Chairman,

very little is known on the whereabouts of Mister Kang Gun, a citizen of South Korea who had formerly worked in the National Security Agency (NSA) of the Democratic Republic of Korea. Amnesty International reported back in 2005 that Kang Gun had fled the Democratic Republic of Korea in 2000 and became a South Korean citizen. He is believed to have been kidnapped in China by agents of your country in March 2005, and taken to the Democratic Republic of Korea. He is believed to be held in a NSA prison in Pyongyang, where he is at grave risk of torture or of being executed.

Kang Gun was helping North Koreans who had fled to China as a result of the food crisis in the Democratic Republic of Korea to travel on to South Korea when he was reportedly kidnapped in the city of Longjing, in Jilin province by your country's security agents and taken to Pyongyang in around May.

In February 2004 Kang had passed on a secretly taken film of the conditions in Yodok kwalliso (labour camp for political prisoners), in South Hamkyung province, to a Japanese TV company, which broadcast it. This is suspected to be part of the reason for his abduction. Under the Democratic Republic of Korea's law, anyone who „*illegally crosses a frontier of the Republic*“ faces up to three years in a kwalliso. This law is in clear breach of Article 12 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which your country is a state party, which states that "*Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own*".

Dear Chairman, I kindly ask you to release Mister Kang Gun from prison and to allow him to leave the Democratic Republic of Korea unless he is accused to have committed a recognisable criminal act in which case he should receive a fair and impartial trial. Please be so kind as to confirm the whereabouts of Kang Gun.

Yours respectfully